United Nations ST/IC/1998/73

Secretariat

28 October 1998

Information circular*

To: Members of the staff

From: The Assistant Secretary-General for Human Resources Management

Subject: **United Nations Staff Relief Committee for Victims of Hurricane Georges in the Caribbean**

1. From 20 to 22 September 1998, several islands of the Caribbean were struck by Hurricane Georges, resulting in loss of life and considerable damage to property and the environment. According to UNDP, close to 400 lives were lost and several hundred thousands left homeless after the hurricane hit Antigua, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Puerto Rico, the Dominican Republic, Haiti and Cuba. Over 1 million persons were affected by Hurricane Georges. In Haiti half a million are still homeless; 85 per cent of the housing stock in Saint Kitts and Nevis was damaged; more than 150,000 people are still in temporary shelters in the Dominican Republic; in Cuba, extensive damage to agriculture, especially banana and coffee plantations, has been reported. Total damage in the region is estimated at several billion United States dollars.

2. With the approval of the Secretary-General and the support of the Staff Committee, the United Nations staff at Headquarters have formed the United Nations Staff Relief Committee to appeal for funds to alleviate the suffering of the victims of the hurricane. Ms. Valencia Williams (Department of Management) and Ms. Myriam Dessables (Department of Public Information) are Co-Chairpersons of the Committee, with Mr. Louis Germain (Department of Public Information) as Secretary, Ms. Greta Salsbury (Department of Economic and Social Affairs) as Treasurer, and Ms. Michele Chapoteau (United Nations Population Fund), Mr. Thomas Cortijo (Department of Management), Mr. Pierre Perodin (Department of Public Information) and Mr. Clarence Clarke (Staff Committee) as members.

3. Starting Friday, 30 October 1998, contributions in cash will be collected by authorized staff members on behalf of the Committee. All proceeds will be donated through an appropriate relief agency.

4. Contributions may also be made by cheque payable to the United Nations Staff Relief Committee for Victims of Hurricane Georges in the Caribbean, addressed to the Treasurer, Ms. Greta Salsbury, room DC2-1432. Volunteers are requested to help in the desk-to-desk collection of contributions for this worthy cause. If you can help, please contact the Treasurer.

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* Expiration date of the present information circular: 30 November 1998.

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